

Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine

Site Screen Report

This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits, pits and waste piles. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands that may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.

The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, and record all immediate site information associated with the mine site. Decisions and recommendations on what additional steps are needed will be provided on a separate document.

Plot 4 AUM Site

Navajo AUM Northern Region

Prepared by:

Weston Solutions, Inc.

Contract: W91238-06-F-0083

12767.063.496.1111

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Part I Site Identification, Location and Status**Site Names and ID numbers as applicable****Mine ID:** 65**Map ID:** N21**CERCLIS:** NNN000908969**Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program:** NA-0923, NA-0905**Local name / Aliases:** Gila Mine; Plot #4; VCA West Reservation Plot 4; VCA Plot 4**Chapter and local area:** Sweetwater / Teec Nos Pos Chapter**County:** Apache **State:** Arizona**Lat/Long:** 36.901175307 N / -109.287788138 W**Nearby road and highway:** Highway 160 **Local Post Office:** Teec Nos Pos**Surface Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below****Tribal Trust Land**☒**Public lands**☐**Private**☐**Tribal Fee Land**☐**Bureau of Land Mgmt**☐**Allotment**☐**State**☐**Fee land**☐**Subsurface Mineral Rights:**

No information on subsurface mineral rights ownership was found in the EPA/AUM Database.

Claim and operator information:

The mine site surface land status is classified as Tribal Trust Land. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Vanadium Corp. of America in 1949 and 1954. No other historical ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

Number of residential structures within 200 feet of mine: None**Estimated volume of mine waste onsite:** 575 yd³

Part II Summary of radiological readings

Highest gamma radiation measurement:

300,465 counts per minute (cpm)

Describe any other radiological measurements:

A total of 4,615 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 6,818 cpm to 300,465 cpm. Measurements collected in the vicinity of the waste debris were found at levels ranging from approximately 15,000 cpm to 100,000 cpm, and at a spot of exposed uranium ore at levels up to approximately 300,000 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

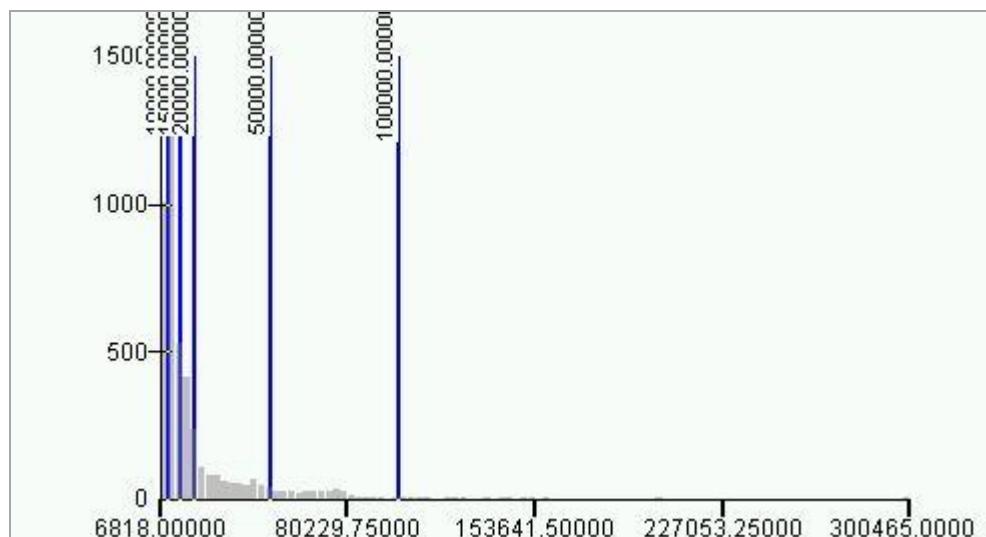
Background Locations

#1 10,130 cpm

Average background = 10,130 cpm

Distribution Chart and Statistics:

The following chart and statistics were generated by ESRI ArcGIS 9.3.1, and show the general distribution of the site gamma radiation measurements. The horizontal X axis represents the gamma radiation reading levels in cpm (lowest levels to the left). The vertical Y axis represents the frequency of each gamma radiation level.



Count:	4615
Minimum:	6818.00000
Maximum:	300465.00000
Sum:	106897047.00000
Mean:	23162.95710
Median:	12498.00000
Standard Deviation:	29330.38442

Part III Status of Reclamation and Mine Waste

The following information was obtained from the Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program (NAMLRP) Point Features Database:

NAMLRP Status of the mine site: Reclaimed : Yes Waste Pile onsite : No

NAMLRP Project Number: NA-0923, NA-0905

NAMLRP Mine features: 3 Prospects, 6 Rim Strip / Pits

The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2010 site screening:

Provide description and status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all caps.

Observed reclamation work and status:

Adits

None

Waste Piles

2 waste piles along ridge of reclamation cap 25'x25'x5'; piles fall off edge towards drainage 50'x50'x5'

Pits

None

Shafts

None

Other Debris and Mine Features

Furrow running E-W at N boundary, 100 ft long; cap above ridge at W boundary; black vent in concrete pad

Part IV

Site observations and Environs

Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:

0 to 200 feet: None

200 feet to 0.25 mile: Horse Trailer 0.25 N-NE of site

Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:

0 to 200 feet: None

200 feet to 0.25 mile: None

Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):

None

Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:

0 to 0.25 miles: None

0.25 miles to 4 miles: Windmill well 0.25 mi NW of site

Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species, habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.

None

Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents. Note information on mine ownership, type of mining operation, period of operation, known amount of production, and any other information as provided.

Plot 4 mine consists of an area of 63,361.05 m². The mine was identified as being operational from 1942 to 1954. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Vanadium Corp. of America in 1949 and 1954. While operational, the mine had a total reported production volume of 522 tons. No other historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

Part V Response Action Summary

Site Name(s): Plot 4 **Chapter:** Sweetwater / Teec Nos Pos

Decision Criteria

Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site? Yes

At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located? 0.25 mi

At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources? 0.25 mi

Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site? Yes

Is the cap/seal functionally intact? Yes

Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases? No

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located? 0.25 mi

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic drinking water source? 0.25 mi

Summary of emergency response factors

None

Summary hazard ranking system factors

None

Summary of reclamation factors

Reclamation cap; furrow; unreclaimed waste rock

Part VI Photos



Photo 1. Plot 4 site



Photo 2. Plot 4 site, cap



Photo 3. Plot 4 site, furrow



Photo 4. Plot 4 site, slope



Photo 5. Plot 4 site



Photo 5. Plot 4 site, vent pipe



Photo 6. Plot 4 site, unreclaimed waste



Photo 7. Plot 4 site, windmill well



Photo 8. Plot 4 site, structures to the north

Part VII Contacts Reports and InformationName: Stanley Edison (928) 871-6861Eugene Esplain (928) 871-7331Title or official role (if any) Navajo EPA Superfund ProgramAddress PO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515Information provided Lead Regulatory Agency

Name_____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number_____

Information provided_____

Name_____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number_____

Information provided_____

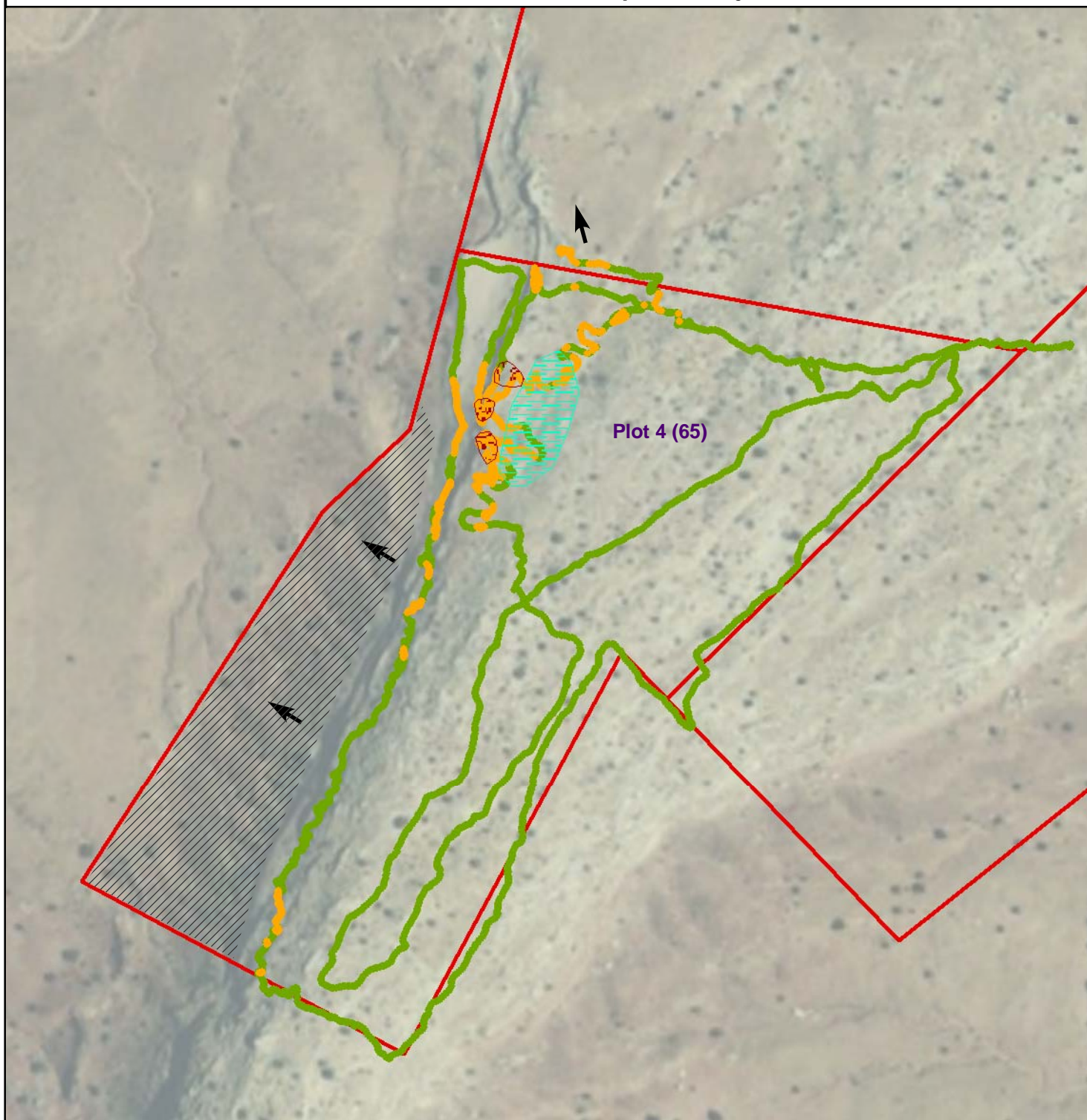
Name_____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number_____

Information provided_____

**Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background
Plot 4 (65)
Sweetwater / Teec Nos Pos Chapter, Navajo Nation**



Legend

Gamma Radiation Measurements

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

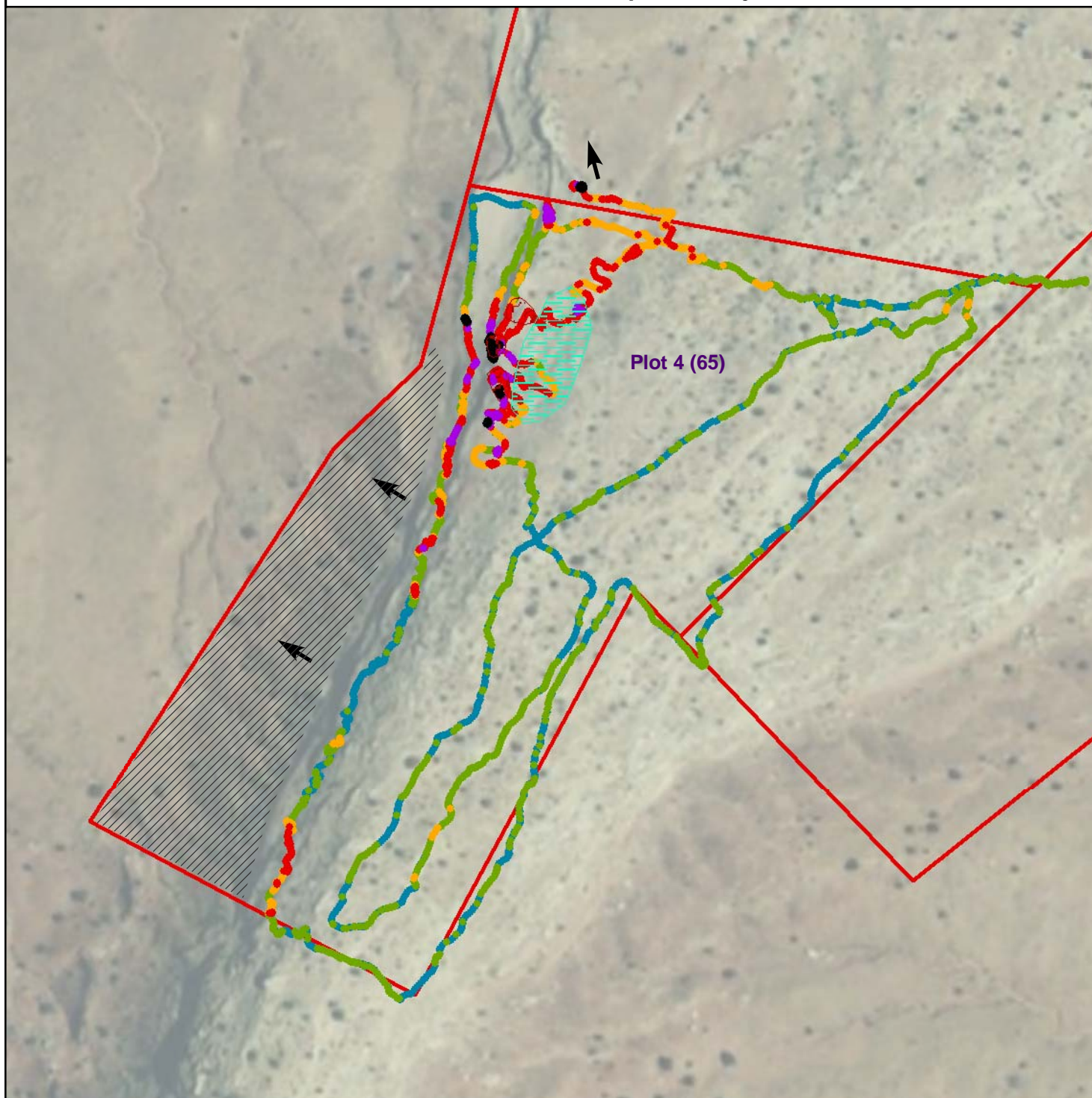
Gamma survey conducted 06/2010
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background = 10,130 cpm

- ➔ General Direction Down-Slope
- ▭ Mine Claim Boundaries
- ▨ Observed Reclamation Cap
- ▨ Observed Waste Pile
- ▨ Inaccessible due to steep grades



Figure 2 - Gamma Radiation Measurements
Plot 4 (65)
Sweetwater / Teec Nos Pos Chapter, Navajo Nation



Legend

Gamma Radiation Measurements

- 0 - 10,000
- 10,000 - 15,000
- 15,000 - 20,000
- 20,000 - 50,000
- 50,000 - 100,000
- > 100,000

- ➔ General Direction Down-Slope
- ▭ Mine Claim Boundaries
- ▨ Observed Reclamation Cap
- ▨ Observed Waste Pile
- ▨ Inaccessible due to steep grades

Gamma survey conducted 06/2010
 Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background 10,130 cpm

